

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 11406

EXDIS

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, EEC
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AT QUADRIpartite AMBASSADORIAL
LUNCH, JUNE 20

REF: A) BONN 11169, B) BONN 11166, C) STATE 140426,
D) BONN 10783, E) USBER 980, F) BONN 10971

SUMMARY. JUNE 20 QUADRIpartite LUNCHEON MEETING WAS
HOSTED BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR. VAN WELL SAID BERLIN
SITUATION APPEARS RELATIVELY CALM AND THAT BOTH SOVIETS
AND GDR SEEM TO WISH TO AVOID EXACERBATING SITUATION.
HE NOTED FORTHCOMING NATURE OF HONECKER'S REMARKS TO
GAUS REGARDING SUBJECTS FOR GDR-FRG NEGOTIATIONS, IN-
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CLUDING NORTHERN AUTOBAHN AND TELTOW CANAL. HOWEVER,
PROSPECTS FOR MEETING BETWEEN SCHMIDT AND HONECKER ARE
STILL UP IN AIR, SINCE GDR APPEARS RELUCTANT TO MOVE
ON HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF
PARTICIPATION OF FRG JUSTICE MINISTER VOGEL IN 25TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN BERLIN OF FOUNDING OF
ADMINISTRATIVE COURT; VAN WELL ASSURED GROUP THAT

VOGEL'S PARTICIPATION WOULD BE STRICTLY CEREMONIAL. BRUNET EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS REGARDING ARMING OF JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS IN BERLIN AND ALSO ABOUT USE OF FRG POLICE AS USHERS AT FORTHCOMING SWIMMING MEET. VAN WELL MENTIONED INFORMAL INDICATION FROM HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA CONCERNING NEW APPROACH REGARDING TERRITORIAL APPLICABILITY CLAUSE RELATING TO TEXTILE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EC AND COMECON. VAN WELL MENTIONED THAT SAUDI ARABIAN PRINCE FAHD WILL VISIT BERLIN FOLLOWING OFFICIAL VISIT TO BONN LATER THIS WEEK. I RAISED WITH BRUNET QUESTION OF MOVING BASC FROM ALLIED CONTROL AUTHORITY BUILDING IN BERLIN AND HE SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO QUESTION AGAIN. VAN WELL STATED THAT REPLACEMENT FOR GDR REPRESENTATIVE KOHL IN BONN IS NOT YET KNOWN, DESPITE EARLIER REPORTS THAT FLORIN WOULD BE NAMED. END SUMMARY.

1. SITUATION IN BERLIN. VAN WELL SAID SITUATION IN BERLIN SEEMS RELATIVELY CALM AND IT APPEARS THAT SOVIETS DO NOT WISH TO EXACERBATE MATTERS THERE. BOTH SOVIETS AND GDR REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN AT PAINS TO STRESS THEIR FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THIS WILL PROVE OUT IN REALITY. ACCORDING TO VAN WELL, SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN TOLD HIM THAT HONECKER'S RECENT MEETING WITH GAUS WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF GROMYKO'S VISIT TO EAST BERLIN. FALIN HAD ALSO
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SAID THAT LATEST SOVIET PROPOSAL IN MBFR WAS RESULT OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO BONN.

2. THERE WAS GENERAL DISCUSSION OF GDR TURN-BACK OF THREE BUSES FROM FRG PROCEEDING TO JUNE 17 COMMEMORATION IN BERLIN (REF A). VAN WELL THOUGHT THIS ACTION WAS NOT NECESSARILY CONTRARY TO WHAT HE HAD SAID EARLIER ABOUT SOVIET-GDR POSITION ON BERLIN AND THAT ACTION AGAINST THE JUNE 17 MANIFESTATION IN BERLIN COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE.

3. FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS. VAN WELL STATED THAT GAUS WOULD BE MEETING WITH GDR REPRESENTATIVES IN BERLIN JUNE 21 TO BEGIN PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION OF BERLIN-HAMBURG AUTOBAHN (REF B). THESE TALKS WOULD BE TO LAY OUT SCHEDULE OF NEGOTIATIONS, SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED, ETC., AND WOULD NOT GET INTO SUBSTANCE. VAN WELL THOUGHT IT WAS CLEAR THAT NORTHERN ROUTE FOR AUTOBAHN WOULD BE CHOSEN AND HE NOTED THAT THIS WOULD BE SOMEWHAT CHEAPER THAN THE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO THE SOUTH. I MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING A SPUR FROM THE NEW

AUTOBAHN TO A POINT IN THE AREA WHERE THE ELBE RIVER

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ENTERS THE FRG. VAN WELL THOUGHT THIS COULD BE CON-
SIDERED, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE EXPENSIVE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED
IT WOULD BE POPULAR IN BERLIN AS WELL AS LOWER SAXONY.

4. VAN WELL SAID FRG PLANS TO PUSH IDEA THAT NEW
AUTOBAHN WILL BE IN ADDITION TO EXISTING HIGHWAY E5,
ALTHOUGH IT IS PROBABLE GDR WILL RESIST THIS AND WILL
WANT TO DROP E5 FOR TRANSIT PURPOSES. VAN WELL MEN-
TIONED THAT THREE ALLIED POWERS SHOULD GIVE MANDATE FOR
NEW AUTOBAHN AND THAT FRG WILL NOTIFY ALLIES OF ITS
INTENTIONS AS PROVIDED IN TRANSIT REGIME. VAN WELL
SAID FRG WOULD BE RAISING THESE ASPECTS IN BONN GROUP.

5. ON OTHER MATTERS FOR NEGOTIATION, VAN WELL SAID
HONECKER HAD CONFIRMED WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE ON
TELTOW CANAL, AND VAN WELL THOUGHT THERE WAS ALSO
POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATING MATTER RELATING
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TO FEES FOR USE OF CANALS IN GDR AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY LINKING GDR AND FRG IN THURINGIA. HE COMMENTED THAT, IF ALL OF THESE PROJECTS GET UNDERWAY, THERE IS PROSPECT OF CLOSE CONTACT AND COOPERATION BETWEEN FRG AND GDR OVER NEXT EIGHT YEARS.

6. VAN WELL ALSO NOTED APPARENT WILLINGNESS OF HONECKER TO MOVE AHEAD ON CONSULAR QUESTIONS INVOLVING COMPETENCE OF FRG MISSIONS ABROAD TO DEAL WITH BERLINERS. MOREOVER, VAN WELL FOUND INTERESTING HONECKER'S REMARKS ON THE NATIONALITY PROBLEM. HONECKER HAD SAID THAT HE WAS NOT ASKING FRG TO CHANGE ITS LAWS BUT TO RESPECT AUTHORITY OF GDR TO ISSUE PASSPORTS AND NON-INTERFERENCE BY FRG WITH GDR RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. VAN WELL THOUGHT THESE CONDITIONS SHOULD POSE NO PROBLEMS.

7. SCHMIDT-HONECKER MEETING. ACCORDING TO VAN WELL, HONECKER, AS WELL AS OTHER GDR OFFICIALS, MADE CLEAR THAT HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS ARE MOST SENSITIVE AND DIFFICULT FOR GDR TO HANDLE. VAN WELL DOUBTED LIKELIHOOD OF GDR AGREEING TO LOWER AGES FOR TRAVEL TO FRG IF SUCH ACTION IS LINKED IN ANY WAY TO SCHMIDT VISIT. SINCE SCHMIDT FEELS STRONGLY THAT HE COULD AGREE TO VISIT ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH ACTION, VAN WELL THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE FOR MEETING SOON. VAN WELL ALSO REMARKED THAT, IF AND WHEN MEETING TAKES PLACE, HONECKER HIMSELF SEEMS TO BE THINKING OF HOLDING MEETING OUTSIDE OF EAST BERLIN -- PROBABLY IN SECLUDED SPOT AWAY FROM PUBLIC.

8. AIR FARE SUBSIDIES TO BERLIN. IN CONNECTION WITH
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RECENT STATEMENT OF FRG POLITICAL PARTIES IN SUPPORT OF BERLIN, FRENCH AMBASSADOR WONDERED WHAT THIS WOULD MEAN IN TERMS OF INCREASED SUBSIDIES FOR BERLIN, AND PARTICULARLY WHETHER THERE WOULD BE INCREASED SUBSIDIES FOR AIR FARES TO BERLIN. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME FRG OFFICIALS SUPPORTED LATTER IDEA, ALTHOUGH CHANCELLOR OPPOSED. UK CHARGE MENTIONED THAT RATE OF INCREASE IN AIR PASSENGERS TO BERLIN IS DOWN, WITH CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN LAND TRAVEL TO BERLIN. BRUNET NOTED THAT FRENCH HAD EXPECTED SIX MILLION PASSENGERS TO PROCESS THROUGH TEGEL IN 1978, BUT IT NOW APPEARS ONLY FOUR

MILLION WILL BE HANDLED. VAN WELL EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THESE STATEMENTS AND GAVE HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INCREASE IN AIR SUBSIDIES.

9. BRUNET RAISED QUESTION OF VISIT OF FRG JUSTICE MINISTER VOGEL TO BERLIN IN CONNECTION WITH 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE COURT. HE THOUGHT ALLIES HAD SOME CONCERNS IN THIS REGARD AND HOPED THAT THE VISIT WOULD BE HANDLED SO AS TO AVOID PROBLEMS. VAN WELL ASSURED GROUP THAT ALL NECESSARY INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED AND THAT VOGEL WOULD TRANSACT NO OFFICIAL BUSINESS WHILE IN BERLIN ON THIS OCCASION.

10. BRUNET NEXT RAISED MATTER OF PERMITTING JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS INVOLVED IN TERRORIST TRIALS IN BERLIN TO BEAR ARMS (REF C). HE COULD UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WAS INCREASED CONCERN REGARDING SAFETY OF JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS AFTER RECENT EVENTS, BUT FELT THAT SAFETY OF OFFICIALS CONCERNED COULD BEST BE PROTECTED BY GIVING THEM STRENGTHENED, PROFESSIONAL PROTECTION. BRUNET UNDERSTOOD THAT STOBBE WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT HAVING JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS BEAR ARMS AND THAT,

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MOREOVER, SUCH ACTION WOULD SEEM CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS POSITIONS ADOPTED BY ALLIES. UK CHARGE SAID BRITISH WERE SENSITIVE TO PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED BUT HE ALSO THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO UPSET ALLIED RULING. I SAID WE THOUGHT EXCEPTION MIGHT WELL BE WARRANTED IN VIEW OF EVENTS IN BERLIN AND THAT ALLIES WOULD BE PLACED IN AWKWARD POSITION IF JUDGE OR PROSECUTOR WERE INJURED AND IT CAME OUT THAT ALLIES HAD REFUSED PERMISSION FOR SUCH PERSONS TO BEAR ARMS. DISCUSSION WAS INCONCLUSIVE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS CLEAR THAT FRENCH HAVE STRONG RESERVATIONS AND THAT BRITISH, AT LEAST IN BONN, SEEM LUKE-WARM TOWARD TAKING ACTION IN THIS AREA.

11. WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID HE ALSO QUESTIONED DESIRABILITY OF USING FRG POLICEMEN -- EVEN ON LEAVE -- AS USHERS FOR WORLD CONFIDENTIAL

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SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BERLIN THIS SUMMER (REF D). VAN WELL SAID HE HAD ALSO WONDERED WHY POLICEMEN WERE NECESSARY, BUT THOUGHT CASE COULD BE MADE FOR THEIR USE SINCE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS INVOLVING CROWD CONTROL COULD ARISE AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE WOULD BE DESIRABLE. I SAID THERE APPEARED TO BE NO LEGAL PROBLEMS AGAINST USE OF OFF-DUTY FRG POLICE IN BERLIN AND THAT ALLIED MISSIONS IN BERLIN SEEMED AGREED ON THIS POINT. BRUNET ACKNOWLEDGED ABSENCE OF LEGAL PROBLEMS BUT SAID HE STILL HAD RESERVATIONS. UK CHARGE ALSO RAISED POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWAL OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IF POLICEMEN WERE USED. VAN WELL THOUGHT THEY WOULD WITHDRAW ONLY IF THEY WANTED TO MAKE A BIG ISSUE OF THE MATTER, WHICH HE WAS INCLINED TO DOUBT. HOWEVER, HE RECOGNIZED THAT PUBLICITY ABOUT USE OF POLICEMEN COULD BE DAMAGING AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT RESERVATIONS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

12. TEXTILE AGREEMENT. VAN WELL SAID THAT HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA HAD CONTACTED OFFICIAL IN EC IN BRUSSELS AND COMMUNICATED TO HIM INFORMALLY TEXT OF "AGREED MINUTE" ON TERRITORIAL APPLICATION CLAUSE

COVERING BERLIN IN EC-COMECON TEXTILE AGREEMENT.
VAN WELL THOUGHT THAT PROPOSAL WAS OF INTEREST AND
COULD BE OF IMPORTANCE.

13. PRINCE FAHD VISIT. VAN WELL MENTIONED THAT SAUDI
ARABIAN PRINCE FAHD, WHO ARRIVES JUNE 21 IN BONN ON
OFFICIAL VISIT, WOULD ALSO VISIT BERLIN AT END OF WEEK.
QUESTION OF WHO WOULD ACCOMPANY HIM FROM FRG WAS AS YET
UNDECIDED. ACCORDING TO VAN WELL, GENSCHER'S PRACTICE
HAS BEEN TO ACCOMPANY HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL VISITORS
TO BERLIN FROM THREE ALLIED COUNTRIES, BUT NOT OTHERS.
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HOWEVER, IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT GENSCHER MIGHT DECIDE TO
ACCOMPANY PRINCE FAHD, PARTICULARLY SINCE ARABS IN PAST
HAVE FELT THAT BERLIN WAS ANTI-ARAB. (NOTE: SUBSEQUENT
TO THE QUADRIPARTITE LUNCH WE WERE INFORMED BY THE
FOREIGN OFFICE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER WILL NOT
REPEAT NOT ACCOMPANY PRINCE FAHD TO BERLIN.)

14. ACA BUILDING IN BERLIN (REF E). I RAISED SEPA-
RATELY WITH BRUNET QUESTION OF RETURNING ALLIED CONTROL
AUTHORITY BUILDING IN BERLIN TO THE GERMANS, MOVING
BASC TO NEW BUILDING NEARBY. I POINTED TO RAPID DETE-
RIORATION OF PRESENT BUILDING AND COST OF MAINTAINING
IT. BRUNET SAID HE RECALLED HEARING OF THIS PROJECT
SEVERAL MONTHS AGO BUT UNDERSTOOD THAT IT HAD BEEN
DROPPED IN VIEW OF LIKELY COMPLICATIONS THE MOVE
WOULD CAUSE WITH SOVIETS. WHEN I EXPLAINED HOW THESE
MIGHT BE HANDLED, HE AGREED TO LOOK INTO QUESTION AGAIN.

15. REPLACEMENT FOR GDR REPRESENTATIVE KOHL (REF F).
VAN WELL SAID THERE HAVE BEEN MANY RUMORS TO EFFECT THAT
FLORIN WOULD REPLACE KOHL IN BONN, BUT THERE WAS NO
CONFIRMATION OF THIS. HE STATED THAT KOHL HIMSELF HAD
DENIED THAT FLORIN WOULD BE COMING. OTHER NAMES MEN-
TIONED AS REPLACEMENTS WERE NIER OF THE GDR FOREIGN
OFFICE AND HAEBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.
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